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**VOL. 26 ISSUE 1289, March 5, 2025**

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**Page 8**



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## Happy Birthday **CARSON HICKS** Friday, March 7, 2025



As many of you know my son, Carson Hicks, lives in Heaven now. I lost him in a hunting accident on accident on October 6, 2022. I talk about him often at school and I tell the students about him – he was an amazing person. His 29th birthday is Friday, March 7 and once again, I am inviting students and staff to wear western or Wildcat gear to celebrate his birthday with me. Carson was a great athlete for the SSHS Wildcats where he played baseball and football and he was an avid rodeo competitor. He was awarded a college rodeo scholarship where he earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Agriculture. I miss him every single second of every single day – the grief of losing your child makes your body ache daily. I want his legacy of being a special son, grandson, nephew, cousin to Chloe and Cole, brother, fiancé to Taeler, friend and a successful cattleman to be remembered forever and that is why I am including my SSES family in this celebration. If you know Carson, you love him. Students will receive a little treat from me on Friday. Thank you in advance to your student for participating in this birthday with me.

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# THE LONE STAR BAT COMPANY

**Tumbleweed Smith**



**Tumbleweed Smith**

Wade Thomas has an antique store in Crockett. He calls it Stories of Texas. Once a friend of his went in with a couple of bats. "They had a brand on them that said The Lone Star Bat Company Crockett, Texas," says Wade, "Without saying anything I was pretty darned excited. I asked my friend how much they wanted for them. They said \$650 each. I'm not one to argue with their asking price, so I bought them.

They sat in my office for two years. They are now in private collections."

Wade has done extensive research on the bat company. "There were two sets of owners and two locations where the bats were made. The Edmiston family started the Lone Star Bat Company during World War Two. They figured out that soldiers at military bases all over Texas liked to play baseball. Maybe Crockett couldn't produce the balls or the gloves but we sure have an abundance of ash trees to make bats. That's how it got started. Bats were produced here until 1953 when they went out of business. They did apparently make it into professional ball at the lower level. I have an ad for the bats that was run in the Sporting News magazine in 1949 so it was a nationally advertised bat."

The bats had different models named for professional players: Lou Gehrig, Stan Musial and others. "Then there's an Alamo model, a Playground model. The bats came in different lengths. Some were for softball, some for hardball and there were some miniatures."

Kids went by the bat company on a regular basis. "Maybe somebody on the lathe would chip a bat or something and they would throw those outside the door. So kids could go by and pick up a free bat. It might not be perfect but it was good enough." Wade probably has the largest collection of Lone Star Bats. "I have eleven full size and four miniature bats. Every one of them has the brand on it. Only two of those bats I found in Texas. The others came from Ohio, California and other places, even Canada. Soldiers must have taken bats home with them or people ordered bats from the ad in Sporting News ad."

Wade interviewed as many people as he could about the bats. There were very few people left who had either worked at the bat company or were descendants of bat company employees. He found one 84-year-old man who had several bats. "He was one of those who used to go by and get bats when they threw them out the door. I asked him how many he had. He said he had picked up hundreds of bats over the years. I didn't want to act too interested. I thought I had discovered a gold mine and was trying to be coy about it. I asked him how many bats he had left. He told me he didn't have any left because he used them for campfires in the back yard and burned them in the fireplace. I have no idea what the inventory of Lone Star Bats might be, but whatever it is, it's a hundred less than it used to be."

Wade is still hoping to find more Lone Star Bats.

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I	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	N	T	Y	P	A	E	P	O	
C	T	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	R	A	R	P	K	G	O	T
I	L	S	O	D	A	B	R	E	A	D	A	A	I	R	H	A
S	C	O	K	L	H	T	N	E	E	T	N	E	V	E	S	T
U	C	I	V	N	V	H	D	E	R	S	O	I	D	E	I	O
M	E	I	C	E	U	A	C	O	N	A	I	T	L	N	B	E
E	L	C	H	E	R	A	N	R	I	E	S	E	K	B	F	S
G	T	H	T	A	L	S	H	R	A	F	S	C	F	E	U	F
A	I	R	P	R	A	E	E	C	T	M	I	I	E	F	E	D
T	C	I	G	I	A	L	B	S	E	R	M	B	T	S	G	H
I	C	S	N	N	A	D	A	R	E	R	D	H	T	Y	A	O
R	R	T	R	N	I	F	I	M	A	E	P	I	C	E	B	L
E	O	I	D	E	L	C	I	T	N	T	V	E	K	A	B	Y
H	S	A	S	E	E	L	N	R	I	A	I	R	L	R	A	D
E	S	N	B	H	N	B	O	A	L	O	O	O	T	L	C	A
S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K	U	D	C	N	R	N	Y	Y	Y

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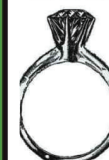
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### **Billy Lynn McQueen**

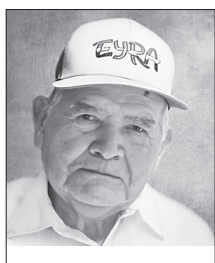
Billy Lynn McQueen, 66, of Sulphur Springs, Texas went to be with his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 in Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 PM Tuesday, March 4, 2025 in Hope Family Fellowship 434 E. Jefferson St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482. Visitation was from 6:00 – 7:00 pm Monday, March 3, 2025 in Fry-Gibbs Funeral Home in Paris, Texas and from 1:00 PM till 2:00 PM Monday, March 4, 2025 at the church. Burial followed in the Peerless Cemetery.

Billy was born on September 29, 1958 in Sulphur Springs, Texas a son of Lonnie and Betty Moore McQueen. Billy was a longtime dairyman and was a retired employee of Northeast Texas Farmer's Coop.

He was ordained in 2013 with the Assemblies of God and had been a licensed minister for many years. He was on the staff of Casa de Paz Church in Paris for several years. Billy loved to preach and teach the word of God especially teachings on salvation and the rapture

of the church. He was very active in the church and Impact Paris ministries. He was a graduate of North Hopkins High School. He enjoyed gardening and taking a trip anywhere especially Branson, Missouri and he loved going with the senior adults from Hope Family Fellowship where he was still an honorary member. Billy loved being with his family. He was very witty and loved to laugh.

He is survived by his brother, Jackie McQueen and his wife, Diane, nephew, Jason Steffey, uncle, Cecil Moore of Sulphur Springs and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, many aunts and uncles and other family.



### **Felipe Medina**

Funeral Service for Felipe Medina will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025 at St. James Catholic Church. Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Interment will follow the service at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery.

Full obituary forthcoming,

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home



### **Elmer Hall**

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elmer Hall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, who left us on February 25th at the age of 58. Born on November 25th, in Cumby Texas, Elmer Lee Hall was a man of unwavering faith, a steady presence in the lives of those who knew him, and a true lover of nature.

As a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Elmer instilled in his family the importance of hard work, dedication, and kindness.

For almost twenty years, he served as a firefighter and EMT, answering the call whenever someone was in need, often without hesitation and always with a smile. It was no surprise when he was named Firefighter of the Year – a reflection of his tireless work and his generosity of spirit.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, James and Nelljean Hall as well as his sister, Jeannie Thomas. Elmer is survived by his adoring wife, Kathy Hall; His eldest son, Austin Hall, wife Ashley Hall and their three children Nolan, Karley, and Macie; His only

daughter Kirstie Hall, husband Lance Smith and their three children Cael, Lydia and Adeleigh; His youngest son Coty Hall and his two children Rhyleigh and Wyatt; His brothers William and Tommy and his sister Rebekah as well as their spouses.

A Funeral Service for Elmer Lee Hall was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at First Baptist Church in Campbell, Texas. Visitation was from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Interment followed the service at Cumby Cemetery. Elmer passed away on February 25, 2025.



### **Wilma Thompson** January 15, 1934 — February 28, 2025

Funeral service for Wilma Thompson, age 91, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Craig Stuart and John Rhoades officiating. Visitation was held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. The Men of Davis Street Baptist Church - Friendship Sunday School Class will be the Honorary pallbearers. Ms. Thompson passed away at her home on Friday, February 28, 2025.

Wilma Marie Payne Thompson was born on January 15, 1934 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Samuel Augustus Payne, Sr. and Willie Mae (Christian) Payne. She was married to Carl Wilber Thompson, Jr. of Price, Texas until his passing. Wilma was honored to be named "Ms. Hopkins County Senior 2021". She had over 20 years of combined volunteer services through the Volunteer Service of Texas Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. Her time volunteering was primarily at the Sulphur Springs Senior Citizen Center and the Christus

Mother Francis Hospital in Sulphur Springs. Wilma attended Kilgore Community College and was a retired Realtor.

Wilma is survived by her children, Diane Marie Thompson Haslag and Terry Wayne Thompson; brother, Edgar Lee Payne (and Brenda) of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Joshua Aaron Haslag (Stacey), Rachel Marie Thompson Bain (Bradley), and Elizabeth Shaw; great-grandchildren, Colin Michael Haslag and Levi Tracy Bain; and nephews, Eddie Payne, Dave Payne, John Payne, Bill Hill, Donnie Hill, Chris Payne, and Jason Payne.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Willie Payne; husband, Carl Wilber Thompson, Jr.; sister, Martha Lou Payne Hill Clements (Ray); and brother, Samuel Augustus Payne, Jr. (Jean). Interment will be at Duncan Cemetery in Good Springs, Texas at a later date.



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**STARTS @ 10:01 AM**

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**Directions:** From Chouteau, OK @ Jct of Hwy. 412 & Hwy. 69, Take Hwy. 412 West 5 1/2 mi. to County Line Rd. Turn South. Go 1 1/2 mi. to Rd 600. Turn Left (E). Auction located first place on north side of road. **OR From Inola, OK @ Jct of Hwy. 412 & Hwy. 88, Take Hwy. 412 East 5 imi. to County Line Rd. Turn South. Go 1 1/2 mi. to Rd. 600. Turn Left (E). Auction located first place on north side of road. Pasture parking.**

**LIVE ONSITE and ONLINE for  
LOTS 2-146 @ 10:01 AM**  
[www.chuppsauction.com](http://www.chuppsauction.com)

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**AUCTION is located at the residence of GARY YODER**

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**Auctioneer's Note:** The Amish Ladies will be serving lunch – proceeds will benefit Darrel Brooks to help with medical expenses. Follow us on Facebook for updates or visit our website for pictures at [www.chuppsauction.com](http://www.chuppsauction.com)

**TERMS:** Cash – Pay Day of Auction – Most Credit Cards Accepted – Check with Proper ID – Concession NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS. ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS ADVERTISING.

## CHUPPS AUCTION & REAL ESTATE

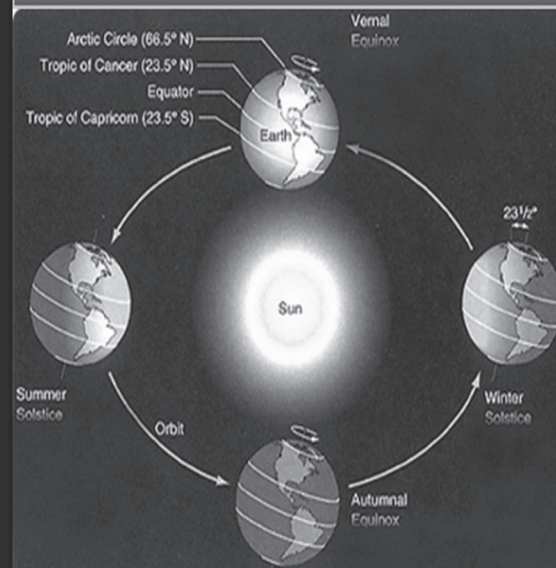
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(918) 638-1157

Dale Chupp, Realtor  
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(918) 630-0495

Jonathan Miller  
(918) 237-7582

## Spring "Vernal" Equinox

Spring begins Monday, March 20 at 3:29 AM PDT



• **Equal Days**

• **Equal Nights**

• **Sunrise: 7:08 AM**

• **Sunset: 7:18 PM**

Data for Sacramento



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# SPRING

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